

Question on Notice

No. 1495

Asked on 16 November 2023

MR D CRISAFULLI ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the amount of hazard reduction burns (in square kilometres) that have been undertaken separately on South Stradbroke Island, North Stradbroke Island, Moreton Island and Bribie Island (reported separately for each financial year since 2018-19)?

ANSWER:

Bushfire mitigation is a shared responsibility between many partners, particularly land management agencies.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that a number of factors can influence the undertaking of hazard reduction burns, particularly the requirement for suitable weather conditions to conduct the burn itself and the antecedent climatic influences which affect the dryness of the vegetation and soil.

In 2021, QFES and its partners undertook the final Operation Cool Burn which was a seasonal operational period focussed on bushfire risk mitigation (generally April to end of August). In January 2022, QFES and its partners moved to a year-round risk-based mitigation program, known as Operation Sesbania. This recognises that, with our changing climate, the windows of opportunity for mitigation activities especially hazard reduction burning are limited, and activities need to be undertaken whenever conditions allow.

As the Member would be aware from publicly available information of the islands in question, the majority of land on these islands are National Parks or Conservation Parks, and as such, are managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). For example, publicly available information shows that 98% of Mulgumpin (Moreton Island) is a National Park.

Importantly, I am advised that the below data only includes a small portion of the burns undertaken by QPWS, who report the majority of their burns separately.

As such, to get a true picture of the amount of hazard reduction burns undertaken on these islands, the Member should direct the question to the appropriate Minister.

Notwithstanding this, I am able to provide the below data which has been provided to QFES by partners such as land management agencies and landholders. Please note, for the reasons outlined above this may not be a complete picture.

In 2019, 7.94 square kilometres on Bribie Island and 0.69 square kilometres on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island). In 2020, 3.44 square kilometres for Bribie Island, and 12.45 square kilometres for Minjerribah. In 2021, 0.19 square kilometres for Minjerribah. In 2022,

5.259 square kilometres for Minjerribah. In 2023 (to 20 November 2023) 4.95 square kilometres for Bribie Island and 2.695 square kilometres for Minjerribah.